

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Introduction

Recent Developments

The Division is very committed to the priority areas identified by the Special Education Advisory Committee, and in addition to strategies outlined in the Improvement Plan and this Annual Performance Report, the Division has submitted a State Improvement Grant (SIG) application that focuses on improving elementary achievement and post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities.

A recent addition to Special Education resources available to school districts is Special Education Consultants located in Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDCs). These consultants will play a major role in the implementation of the SIG work scope, but will provide assistance to districts whether or not the SIG is awarded. Special education RPDC consultants work with school districts, RPDC staff and other state consultants and supervisors to improve student academic performance in districts and/or schools as identified through data analysis and the priority school process. Special education RPDC consultants deliver and support Division of Special Education professional development initiatives including those relative to meeting performance goals and indicators.

Special education RPDC consultants expand the capacity of the Division of Special Education to provide regional services throughout the state. Regional team members provide support and service to priority schools and their responsibilities may include:

- Serving on Success Teams or Management Teams
- Service to unaccredited and provisionally accredited districts or Academically Deficient School
- Teaming with Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Regional Facilitators to analyze disaggregated special education student performance on the MAP
- Teaming with the MAP Regional Facilitators to support districts in planning and sustaining professional development to improve student performance
- Working with districts that have been identified as low performers in elementary achievement or secondary transition to perform a root-cause analysis and to develop professional development plans that will address the unique needs of each district.